

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECSTATE WASHDC 1457

COMUSJ FUCHU

313 AIR DIVISION KADENA

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA

USAGCO OKINAWA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ONLY 333

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TAGS MARR, JA

SUBJ: IE SHIMA INCIDENT

SUMMARY. OKINAWAN LEFTISTS ARE PERSISTING ON THE

IE SHIMA INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH THE AIR FORCE ANNOUNCEMENT ON JAPANESE JURIDICAL JURISDICTION HAS SEVERELY HAMPERED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THIS A MAJOR CAUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE AIR FORCE DECISION THAT A CERTIFICATE OF DUTY STATUS WILL

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NOT BE GIVEN FOR THE TWO AIRMEN INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING AT THE IE SHIMA GUNNERY AND BOMBING RANGE HAS GREATLY REDUCED THE HEAT OF THE PRESS AND POLITICAL PROTESTS OVER THE INCIDENT. THE LEFTISTS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO TRY TO KEEP THE ISSUE ALIVE. THE TWO LOCAL LEFTIST INCLINED NEWSPAPERS STILL CARRY ALMOST DAILY STORIES ON THE INCIDENT, RANGING FROM A BACKGROUND SERIES ON THE RANGE AND IE SHIMA ITSELF TO FACTUAL STORIES ON THE INVESTIGATION. THE STORIES
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NO LONGER GET HEADLINE TREATMENT, HOWEVER, AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED

THE JAPANESE COURTS WILL HAVE JURISDICTION.

2. AS ONE EFFORT TO KEEP THE INCIDENT PROMINENT, THE COMMUNIST INCLINED JAPANESE LAWYERS FEDERATION NOW HAS A LARGE DELEGATION DOWN FROM TOKYO TO QTE INVESTIGATE UNQTE THE CASE. THEY TOURED IE SHIMA AND HAVE CALLED AT A NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, INCLUDING US. PRESUMABLY THEY ARE TRYING TO GATHER ENOUGH TO RAISE THE ISSUE IN THE DIET.

3. THE PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY HEALD AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION STARTING TODAY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, TO DEBATE PRIMARILY THE IE SHIMA INCIDENT AND THE RIF QUESTION. THE ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE INCIDENT AND ASKING FOR REMOVAL OF THE RANGE.

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4. THE VERNACULAR PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED IN TRUNCATED FORM THE CONTENT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 24 BY GENERAL MCCLAIN, CG 313TH AIR DIVISION KADENA, THAT HE IS TEMPORARILY LIMITING OPERATIONS AT THE IE SHIMA RANGE AS CONTROL MEASURES FOR SAFE OPERATIONS ARE REVIEWED. ALSO CARRIED WAS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GENERAL'S REPLY TO A SOMEWHAT ABUSIVE LETTER FROM GOVERNOR YARA COMPLAINING ABOUT THE INCIDENT. THE REPLY NOTED GENERAL MCCLAIN'S REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT; THE IMPERATIVE FOR SAFE OPERATION OF THE RANGE; THE DANGER AND ILLEGALITY OF THE BRASS GATHERING ACTIVITY; AND THE AIR FORCE DESIRE TO COOPERATE, HOWEVER, WITH THE VILLAGERS TO THE EXTENT THAT CAN BE DONE WITHIN SAFETY LIMITS. BOTH THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE LETTER WILL BE HELPFUL VIS A VIS LOCAL OPINION ON THIS INCIDENT. DECONTROL JULY 25 1975.

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